

known as the Bristol Sessions were born, launching the careers of country greats like the Carter Family, the Stonemans and Jimmie Rogers. Those sessions are often billed as “the Big Bang” that started the development of modern and marketable country music.

Bristol, TN, and Bristol, VA, may be two cities but they share a common spirit. You can’t help but feel that spirit each time you visit, as I have had the pleasure of doing many times over the years. Nothing says it better than the Bristol Sign, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Stretching across State Street and linking the States of Virginia and Tennessee, it declares Bristol “A Good Place to Live.”

Mr. President, I extend my warmest wishes to the people of Bristol as they celebrate the twin cities’ sesquicentennial this year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—COM- MENDING THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2006 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 523

Whereas on June 26, 2006, the Oregon State University baseball team won the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska by defeating the University of Georgia Bulldogs by a score of 5-3, the University of Miami Hurricanes by a score of 8-1, the Rice University Owls by scores of 5-0 and 2-0, and the University of North Carolina Tarheels in 2 championship series games by scores of 11-7 and 3-2;

Whereas the success of the season depended on the hard work, dedication, and performance of every player on the Oregon State University baseball team, including Erik Ammon, Darwin Barney, Bret Bochsler, Reed Brown, Dallas Buck, Brian Budrow, Mitch Canham, Bryn Card, Brett Casey, Cory Ellis, Derek Engelke, Josh Figue, Cole Gillespie, Ryan Gipson, Tyler Graham, Mark Grbavac, Kevin Gunderson, Koa Kahalehoe, Greg Keim, Jon Koller, Chris Kunda, Eddie Kunz, Joey Lakowski, Greg Laybourn, Lonnie Lechelt, Mike Liessman, Anton Maxwell, Jake McCormick, Shea McFeely, Jonah Nickerson, Joe Paterson, Casey Priseman, Sean Rockey, Bill Rowe, Scott Santschi, Alex Sogard, Dale Solomon, Michael Stutes, Rob Summers, Daniel Turpen, Geoff Wagner, and John Wallace;

Whereas numerous members of the Oregon State University baseball team were recognized for their performance in the regular season in the PAC-10 Conference, including Cole Gillespie, who was named PAC-10 Baseball Player of the Year, Chris Kunda, who was named PAC-10 Defensive Player of the Year, Darwin Barney, Dallas Buck, Cole Gillespie, Kevin Gunderson, and Jonah Nickerson who were named to the first team All PAC-10 baseball team, and Mitch Canham, Chris Kunda, and Shea McFeely who were named to the honorable mention All PAC-10 baseball team;

Whereas Head Coach Pat Casey was named PAC-10 Baseball Coach of the Year;

Whereas Jonah Nickerson was recognized as the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament; and

Whereas the College World Series victory of the Oregon State University ended a terrific season in which the team compiled a record of 50-16: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Oregon State University baseball team, Head Coach Pat Casey and his coaching staff, Athletic Director Bob DeCarolis, and President Edward John Ray for an outstanding championship season; and

(2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of Oregon State University.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLU- TION 106—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARD- ING HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES BY DEMOCRAT- ICALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS OF TAIWAN

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 106

Whereas, for over half a century, a close relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan, which has been of enormous political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage to both countries;

Whereas Taiwan is one of the strongest democratic allies of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas it is United States policy to support and strengthen democracy around the world;

Whereas during the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan made a remarkable transition to a full-fledged democracy with a vibrant economy and a vigorous multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in a November 2005 speech in Kyoto, Japan, lauded the Government of Taiwan for its democratic achievements;

Whereas, in spite of its praise for democracy in Taiwan, the United States Government continues to adhere to guidelines from the 1970s that bar the President, Vice President, Premier, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister of Taiwan from coming to Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the United States Government has barred these high-level officials from visiting Washington, D.C., while allowing the unelected leaders of the People’s Republic of China to routinely visit Washington, D.C., and welcoming them to the White House;

Whereas these self-imposed restrictions lead to a lack of direct contact and communication with the democratically elected leaders of Taiwan and deprive the President, Congress, and the American public of the opportunity to engage in a direct dialogue regarding developments in the Asia-Pacific region and key elements of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas, in consideration of the major economic, security, and political interests shared by the United States and Taiwan, it is to the benefit of the United States for United States officials to meet with and communicate directly with the democratically elected leaders of Taiwan;

Whereas, since the Taiwan Strait is one of the flashpoints in the world, it is important that United States policymakers directly communicate with the leaders of Taiwan; and

Whereas, Section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of

1994 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) provides that the President or other high-level officials of Taiwan may visit the United States, including Washington D.C., at any time to discuss a variety of important issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) restrictions on visits to the United States by high-level elected and appointed officials of Taiwan, including the democratically-elected President of Taiwan, should be lifted;

(2) the United States should allow direct high-level exchanges at the Cabinet level, in order to strengthen a policy dialogue with the Government of Taiwan; and

(3) it is in the interest of the United States to strengthen links between the United States and the democratically-elected Government of Taiwan and demonstrate stronger support for democracy in the Asia-Pacific region.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4543. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

SA 4544. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4543. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; as follows:

On page 2, line 2, strike “(two)” and all that follows and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FLAG PROTECTION.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Flag Protection Act of 2006”.

(b) **FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**—

(1) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(A) the flag of the United States is a unique symbol of national unity and represents the values of liberty, justice, and equality that make this Nation an example of freedom unmatched throughout the world;

(B) the Bill of Rights is a guarantee of those freedoms and should not be amended in a manner that could be interpreted to restrict freedom, a course that is regularly resorted to by authoritarian governments which fear freedom and not by free and democratic nations;

(C) abuse of the flag of the United States causes more than pain and distress to the overwhelming majority of the American people and may amount to fighting words or a direct threat to the physical and emotional well-being of individuals at whom the threat is targeted; and